

NAVAL MEDIA AWARD WINNER

# The 76er

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**MOCHI POUNDING  
CEREMONY**

**SAILORS VISIT  
ORPHANAGE**

**CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**



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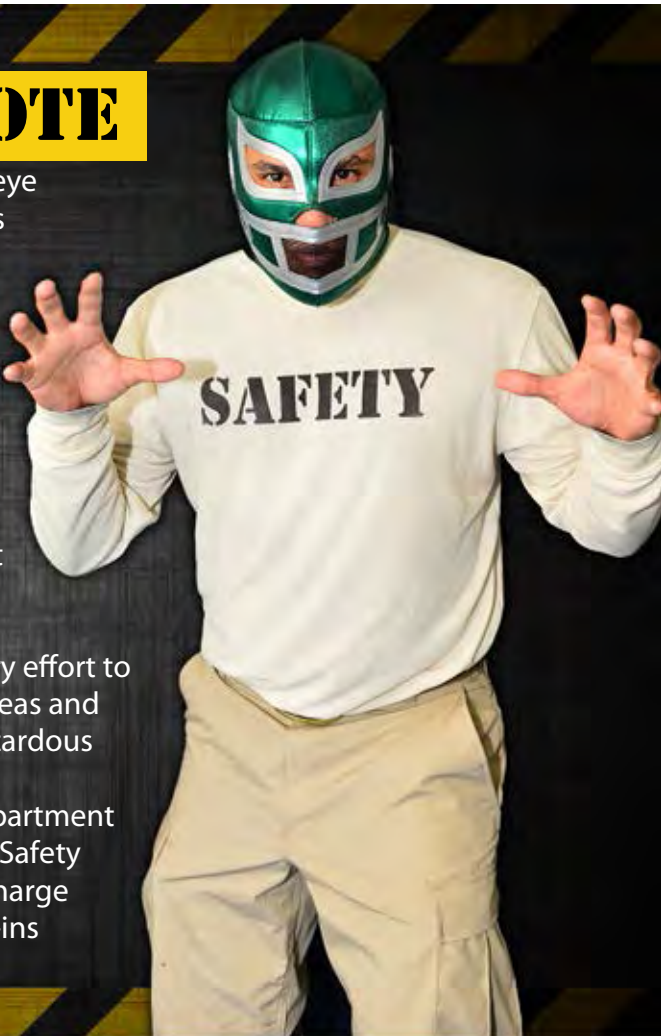
<http://www.reagan.navy.mil>

# SAFETY NOTE

Mandatory hard hat and eye protection wear commences January 12, 2016 while transiting the ship. PPE wear in the work center is delegated to the supervisor.

This policy applies to all personnel in uniform or in a duty status. Personnel arriving or departing the ship on liberty or to workout in authorized civilian attire are exempt. However, these personnel should make every effort to avoid transiting industrial areas and to minimize exposure to hazardous conditions.

Gear will be issued by department on their scheduled day. The Safety department will also be in charge of issuing PPE to new check-ins throughout SRA.



## USS RONALD REAGAN

**Commanding Officer**  
Capt. Chris Bolt  
**Executive Officer**  
Capt. Brett Crozier  
**Command Master Chief**  
CMDCM Jason Haka

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Front Cover Photo Illustration by MC3 James Mullen





# Return to Yokosuka, December 2015

# Mochi Pounding

Story and photos by MC3 James Lee

JMSDF and U.S. Sailors come together for Mochi Pounding Ceremony



Sailors from the U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) visited the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopter destroyer JS Izumo (DDH 183) for a mochi-pounding ceremony, Dec. 13.

More than 100 Ronald Reagan Sailors, their family members, JMSDF sailors and guests participated in the traditional Japanese New Year celebration where rice cakes are made by pounding rice with wooden mallets. It's done to celebrate the previous year and bring good fortune for the year to come.

"We're here to celebrate the ending of this great year when USS Ronald Reagan came to Yokosuka and JS Izumo was commissioned," said Capt. Atsushi Yoshino, JS Izumo's commanding officer.

Capt. Chris Bolt, Ronald Reagan's commanding officer, Capt. Brett Crozier, Ronald Reagan's executive officer and Ronald Reagan's Command Master Chief Jason Haka, wore traditional Japanese clothing as they pounded mochi among fellow Sailors and families.

"USS Ronald Reagan is the greatest ship in the U.S. Navy and JS Izumo is the greatest ship in the JMSDF," said Bolt. "Together we are the two greatest warships in the world."

Chief Yeoman Vivian Favors, Ronald Reagan's Administration Department X1 division leading chief

petty officer, said she liked seeing Capt. Bolt receive a traditional Japanese good luck charm from JMSDF sailors.

"I think this event was necessary to share the culture and strength of USS Ronald Reagan and JS Izumo," said Favors. "I'm enjoying the celebration of unity and togetherness we have here. The ceremony and games are good morale boosters for our crew members and families."

Chief Religious Program Specialist Peter Butucel, Command Religious Ministries Department's leading chief petty officer, helped coordinate the mochi-pounding ceremony and distributed invitations for the event while Ronald Reagan was still at sea.

"This is a significant year for the Japan-U.S. alliance," said Butucel. "We worked on our alliance and continue to bring peace and stability to this region."

Butucel remarked that the event is an important and rare occasion for Sailors and guests of both countries.

"To be stationed on America's flagship and to be able to go on the Japanese flagship is a great experience," said Butucel. "They're great hosts and are very welcoming. It was a great time for the Sailors and their families." ■

# NO DAYS OFF





# Ronald Reagan Sailors Visit Yokosuka Orphanage, Build Alliance with Holiday Cheer

Story and photos by MC3 Nathan Burke

Fourteen Sailors from the U.S. Navy’s only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) visited the Shunko Gakuen Children Home (SGCH) in Yokosuka, Japan, Dec. 22.

The visit brought together Sailors from the U.S. Navy, SGCH children and members of the local community, and was highlighted by the delivery of more than 150 Christmas gifts donated by Ronald Reagan Sailors.

“I think the kids would agree that one of the best parts of life is sharing what we have,” said Capt. Chris Bolt, Ronald Reagan’s commanding officer.

SGCH, dedicated to protecting, raising and mentoring children to grow up as good members of society, currently supports 69 children. Thirteen were present to receive gifts during the visit.

“Since the kids are away from their parents and families, when U.S. service members visit them it makes their lives

richer,” said Shuichi Koyama, deputy director of SGCH. “It makes them feel richer as well, so they will feel positive in their life.”

The visit allowed Sailors the opportunity to interact with SGCH children while they opened and played with the donated toys and gifts.

“Seeing how excited the kids were to get the toys was pretty cool,” said Interior Communications Electrician 1st Class Sade Forman, from Bronx, New York. “It’s important for us to interact with the community to show we are here and we want to be a part of them. It creates a bond. They are a part of our family.”

Fifty-five Ronald Reagan Sailors purchased and donated the gifts for the children.

“I liked seeing Ronald Reagan Sailors donate the gifts,” said Aviation Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class, from Seattle, Washington. “For them to take their time to buy a toy or

two for these kids, I thought was pretty cool.”

According to Fire Controlman 1st Class Frank Ware, from Jacksonville, North Carolina, the visit wasn’t solely about the gifts.

“My favorite part was the kids reaction to people who weren’t from the home because when you’re in that kind of situation, anything positive will brighten your day,” said Ware. “I could tell as soon as we walked in, there was a change in their demeanor, because I don’t know how many visits they get.”

After Sailors spent time with the children assembling the new gifts and playing with them for the first time, the children thanked the Sailors in unison.



“Arigato Gozaimasu,” said the children, which translates to “thank you very much.”

“You are so very, very welcome,” said Bolt. “It was our honor. I hope Ronald Reagan’s crew can be a part of this orphanage and we can do this each year, regularly. It’s a big partnership in the community.”

According to Shuuji Koboayashi, director of SGCH, the history of friendship and interaction with the U.S. Navy dates back to the year the orphanage was established in 1946.

“I would very much appreciate if you could come back and take more time in playing with the kids,” said Koyama. “The kids would be very excited.” ■





# SAILOR SPOTLIGHT

## SAILOR SPOTLIGHT: getting to know

name: Aliqwa Mastin  
department: DECK  
duty grind: NEEDLEGUNNING DIAMOND DECK  
hometown: DALLAS, TEXAS  
inspiration: MY FAMILY  
soundtrack (song): ME, MYSELF & I - G-EAZY  
that special place: RACK  
sports team: SAINTS  
movie: FAST AND FURIOUS SERIES  
food: CHICKEN STRIPS  
can't live without: MY MOM  
proudest moment: JOINING THE NAVY  
dream job: PSYCHOLOGY INVESTIGATOR  
best age, why?: 18 GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME TO JAPAN  
hobby: TRYING DIFFERENT FOODS  
mentor: MRS. VAIL  
the perfect day: LAYING IN A REAL BED ALL DAY



# First Class Petty Officer Association and Family Readiness Group Host Children's Christmas Party

Story and photos by MCSN MacAdam Weissman



Sailors and families from the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) celebrated the holiday season with a children's Christmas party aboard Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Dec. 12.

The Ronald Reagan's children's Christmas party, held at Purdy Gym and sponsored by Morale Welfare and Recreation and United Service Organization, was coordinated by Ronald Reagan's First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) and Family Readiness Group (FRG) to promote a strong sense of family.

"Events like the children's Christmas party make us proud of our Navy family," said Capt. Chris Bolt, Ronald Reagan's commanding officer. "In the true spirit of the holiday season we should thank the volunteers that made the happy memories of the children of the Ronald Reagan."

Volunteers from Ronald Reagan's FCPOA, FRG and junior Sailors set up, coordinated and hosted

activities which included photo booths, Christmas cookie designing, writing letters to Santa and photographing children with a volunteer Santa Claus.

"The kids love it," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Aircraft Handling) 1st Class Sherwin Baquid, from Anaheim, California. "My family always looks forward to taking a picture with Santa Claus. That's a priority when we come here. After that the kids play."

Volunteers served pizza and drinks to Sailors and families after supervising games, arts and crafts and dancing. Junior Sailors also set up inflatable bounce houses and slides as well as a "snow land" made of cotton and bubble wrap.

According to Information Systems Technician 1st Class Monica Bolton, President of Ronald Reagan's FCPOA, and Jo Schermerhorn, President of the Ronald Reagan's FRG, they share a common goal to provide Sailors and families a with a feeling of home even though they are in a foreign country. ■

# WARRIOR ESTHOS

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH  
CVN 76



“Perfection is not attainable,  
but if we chase perfection  
we can catch excellence.”

-Vince Lombardi



USS RONALD REAGAN  
SAILORS HELPING SAILORS. ONE TEAM. ONE FIGHT.